



## Clinical Signs in Horses

Horses typically develop acute disease after ingestion of anthrax spores. Common symptoms of the disease in horses include:

- ❑ Fever
- ❑ Chills
- ❑ Anorexia
- ❑ Depression
- ❑ Colic
- ❑ Bloody diarrhea

Swelling of the neck, sternum, lower abdomen and external genitalia may also be seen. Affected animals usually die within 1-3 days; some affected horses may survive up to a week.

## Clinical Signs in Swine

Pigs infected with anthrax may have mild to chronic infections characterized by localized swelling in the neck. Systemic signs include:

- ❑ Fever
- ❑ Loss of appetite
- ❑ Enlarged lymph nodes

Some animals may develop progressive swelling of the throat resulting in difficulty breathing and swallowing. Some pigs with anthrax do recover. Recovered asymptomatic pigs may have signs of localized infection in the tonsils and cervical lymph nodes found at slaughter.

## Treatment

*Bacillus anthracis* is susceptible to a number of antibiotics including penicillin and oxytetracycline. Due to the rapid course of the disease, antibiotics must be given immediately at time of diagnosis. Supportive treatment may also be necessary. During an outbreak, prophylactic antibiotics may be given to exposed and at-risk animals.

## Control

Anthrax is a reportable disease. Quarantines, effective carcass disposal techniques and decontamination are essential to control an anthrax outbreak.

- Affected premises will be quarantined.
- Sick animals should be isolated.
- To prevent spore formation, carcasses should not be opened. Scavengers should be prevented from accessing the carcasses.
- Grazing animals should be restricted from contaminated areas.
- Carcasses and contaminated materials should be properly disposed.

Burning is considered to be the most effective disposal method for anthrax-contaminated carcasses, manure, bedding and other contaminated materials. However, local county regulations govern carcass disposal. After cleaning, a 10 percent sodium hydroxide (NaOH) or a 5 percent formaldehyde solution can be used to effectively disinfect stockyards, pens and other equipment.

## Prevention

Use of modified live vaccines can prevent anthrax in livestock. Livestock in anthrax endemic areas should be vaccinated annually.

## Zoonotic Potential

Anthrax may cause serious disease in humans. Human cases may develop after exposure to infected animals and their tissues. For additional information on Anthrax in humans, contact your County Public Health Department or visit: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/Anthrax.aspx>

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
USDA/APHIS/VS 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690	